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Massachusetts

Cultural Council

SUPPORTING PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN THE ARTS, HUMANITIES & SCIENCES

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History

The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) was formed in 1990 from the merger of two state agencies: the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council and the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities. The agency is funded primarily by the state from Megabucks revenue. The MCC also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mission

The mission of the Massachusetts Cultural Council is to promote excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.

Impact & Results

MCC grants and services are available to schools, 336 local cultural councils in 349 communities, artists, and nonprofit cultural and science organizations. All are important components of one of the state's most important economic assets — *the nonprofit cultural industry which generates a $1.5 billion annual economic impact.*

IMPACT OF THE MCC:

- Serves every community in the state through direct grants or grants to local cultural councils; 83% of cities and towns are low- or middle-income.
- Funds allocated to every school district for cultural programs.
- 5,615 grants awarded last year to cultural organizations, community-based organizations, schools, and artists.
- 80% of FY'94 direct grant recipients had budgets under $500,000.

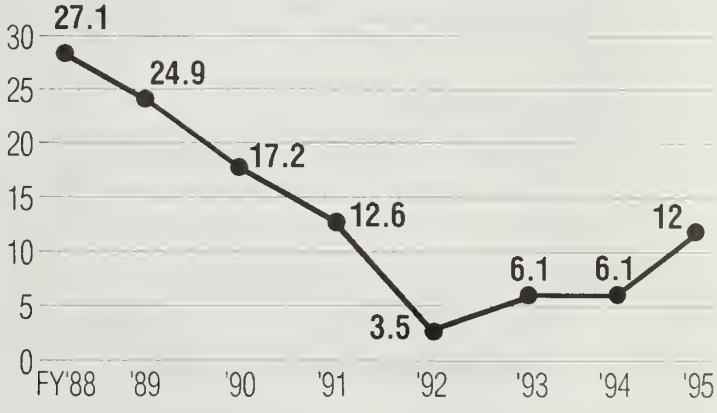
IMPACT OF MASSACHUSETTS' NONPROFIT CULTURAL INDUSTRY:

- Stimulates tourism–Massachusetts' second largest industry.
- Employs 19,600 people.
- Pays $32 million in taxes.
- Helps create a quality of life appealing to businesses and families.
- $1.03 billion impact from cultural institution spending.
- $483 million impact from audience spending.

Budget History

- The MCC's current budget is $12 million.
- The State's investment allows the MCC to qualify for federal grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. In FY'95 four NEA grants will add $642,000 to the MCC budget.
- The MCC is committed to increasing support for cultural activities.

State Funding
In millions of dollars



Grant Programs

MCC grant programs are organized around two areas: Schools & Communities and Organizations & Artists. All MCC grant programs seek to:

- promote the development and delivery of excellent public programs;
- support innovative cultural education;
- celebrate the state's cultural diversity;
- target low-income or geographically-isolated communities; and
- employ the power of the arts, sciences, and humanities to strengthen communities.

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

Local Cultural Council Program

Allocations to 336 local cultural councils serving 349 of the state's 351 cities and towns. Funds are regranted to support community cultural programs and PASS, an admissions subsidy program for schoolchildren.

Events & Residencies

Matching grants to schools for artist's fees, to support in-school cultural events and longer-term residencies.

Local Council Basic Salary Assistance

A grant program, supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, to support the professional development of a select number of qualified local councils.

ORGANIZATIONS & ARTISTS

Operating Support, Project Support, Collaborative Assistance

Matching grants to support public programs and services of nonprofit cultural, social service, or other community-based organizations.

Education Project Support

Matching grants to support programs for student audiences; development of curricular materials; teacher training; or other programs linking cultural organizations with schools, students, or teachers.

Artist Grants

Grants for the state's most distinguished artists to create work and present it publicly.

Partnerships and Initiatives

The MCC further leverages its financial resources through partnerships and special initiatives with other funders, public and private:

Massachusetts Facilities Fund

A partnership with the Cultural Facilities Fund (a private funder) and the New England Foundation for the Arts, to provide technical assistance to cultural organizations in all aspects of facility development and finance, and to make available up to $1.5 million in low-interest facility loans.

Americans with Disabilities Act Mini-Grants

A partnership with Very Special Arts Massachusetts, to enable organizations to make their facilities and programs fully accessible to people with differing abilities.

YouthReach Initiative

An initiative, funded in part through an award from the NEA, to support community partnerships providing cultural programs targeted for "at-risk" youth in low-income communities.

Media Literacy Partnership

A partnership with the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, to support fellowships and teacher training institutes focused on media literacy.

Science Literacy Initiative

An initiative with science institutions, to provide in-depth science education programs for schoolchildren.

Diversity Initiative

A partnership with private funders, to support efforts by cultural organizations to enhance the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity within their staffs, boards, and audiences.

Artist Trust, New Forms, Mass. Touring Program

Programs supported through a long-term partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts. NEFA provides more than a 2-1 match for the MCC's contribution: more than $638,000 was distributed by NEFA in Massachusetts in 1993.

Business Volunteers for the Arts

MCC support enabled the launch of this new organization which cultivates and trains volunteers from the business community to assist cultural organizations in financial management, planning, marketing, and other areas.

Services and Policy Leadership

In addition to the grant programs, partnerships, and initiatives described above, the MCC provides an increasing range of services for cultural organizations, artists, schools, and other constituents. These include:

- publication of a handbook for local cultural councils, to assist in the administration of local regranting programs;
- publication of a *Cultural Resources Directory*, to help schools identify artists for school events and residencies;
- organization of statewide conferences, such as 1994's "Breaking The Mold: An Interdisciplinary Vision for Education";
- sponsoring artist showcases and artist training workshops for their school programs;
- publication of two agency newsletters.

In 1993, the MCC also took the leadership role in a planning process with the Department of Education and several other policymakers, as the first step toward a statewide plan to integrate the arts into Massachusetts' public schools. In part as a result of the MCC's efforts, the state's Education Reform Act of 1993 was amended to include the arts as one of the required elements of the state's basic curriculum.

To support community efforts to integrate the arts into local school curricula, the MCC produced and distributed "Education Through the Arts: A Plan for Action."

MCC Staff and Board

Rose Austin
Executive Director

Clayton March
Executive Assistant

Schools and Communities

Tamsen E. George
Program Manager

Carol Guidice
Programs and Services Coordinator
Event & Residency Program, Event & Residency Roster Review
Local Council Regions: Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk and part of Worcester

Lisa Hergenrother
Senior Programs and Services Coordinator
Local Cultural Council Program, Local Arts Agencies Local Council Regions: Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Plymouth and part of Worcester

Veta Weir
Programs and Services Coordinator
Mini-Grant Program, PASS Program, PASS Roster Review
Local Council Regions: Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire and part of Worcester

Robert D. Bailey
Program Associate, *Event & Residency*

Kathleen M. Perna
Program Associate, *Local Cultural Councils*

Damien Brown
Administrative Assistant

Organizations and Artists

Tesair Lauve
Program Manager

Robert Ayres
Program and Services Coordinator
Folk Life and Ethnic Heritage, Literature, Music

Cheryl Balukonis
Senior Programs and Services Coordinator
Dance, Historical Societies and Museums, Theater

Ricardo Barreto
Program and Services Coordinator
Artist Grants, MA Touring Program

Regina W. Oliver
Administrative Coordinator

Anne Teschner
Programs and Services Coordinator
Media, Multidisciplinary, YouthReach

Mark Winetrout
Senior Programs and Services Coordinator
Design, Science, Visual Arts

Ricco Siasoco
Program Associate

Fiscal, Information Systems, and Communications

Charlie McDermott
Manager for Planning and Administration

Gerry Flood
Fiscal Officer - *State and Federal Budgets*

D. Scott Hufford
Information Systems Coordinator

Mary McCarthy
Contract Specialist - *Contracts*

Michael Nagle
Fiscal Coordinator - *Personnel, LCC Contracts*

Lisa Safier
Communications/Government Relations Coordinator

Renee Lindsay
Administrative Assistant

Candis Stout
Receptionist

Peter Couble
Fiscal Intern

MCC Board

Sheila Balboni, *Lawrence*
Jody Dow, *Brookline*
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Roberta Uno, *Amherst*
Margaret Warner, *Lexington*
Anne Witherby, *Boston*

MCC Offices

MCC Boston Office
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116-4802
Tel: 617-727-3668 Toll Free: 800-232-0960
Fax: 617-727-0044 TTY: 617-338-9153

MCC Springfield Office
436 Dwight Street
State Office Building, Springfield, MA 01103-1317
Tel: 413-784-1089 Fax: 413-784-1093